power from GT-I and GT-II of the project which was declared commercial with effect from 1st January and 1st May, 1999 respectively during their open cycle operation. This has resulted in accumulation of liability of Rs. 185 crores against KEB. NTPC is incurring huge loss from this project.

Nevertheless, NTPC is seriously pursuing Kayamkulam expansion project of 1950 MW (tentative) capacity. In view of the inability to utilise the full powr of Stage-I, there is a proposal to take it up as a regional project in which Kerala will also have a share. The implementation of the project, as a regional station, would be contingent on a number of factors including availability of LNG in an appropriate time frame, price and terms, signing of Power Purchase Agreement with the State Electricity Boards of the Southern States (for utilising its full capacity) with sufficient payment safeguards etc.

VRS in Rural Electrification Corporation

1189. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Voluntary Retirement Scheme pronounced by Government for PSUs is presently under consideration in the Rural Electrification Corporation;

(b) if so, the present status of the matter and by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) the conditions subject to which one might be eligible to opt for the scheme; and

(d) the likely benefit that an employee might get under VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) No such scheme is under consideration at present.

Escalation in Cost of Power Projects

1190. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far undertaken any midterm or annual appraisal of such power projects in the country which are